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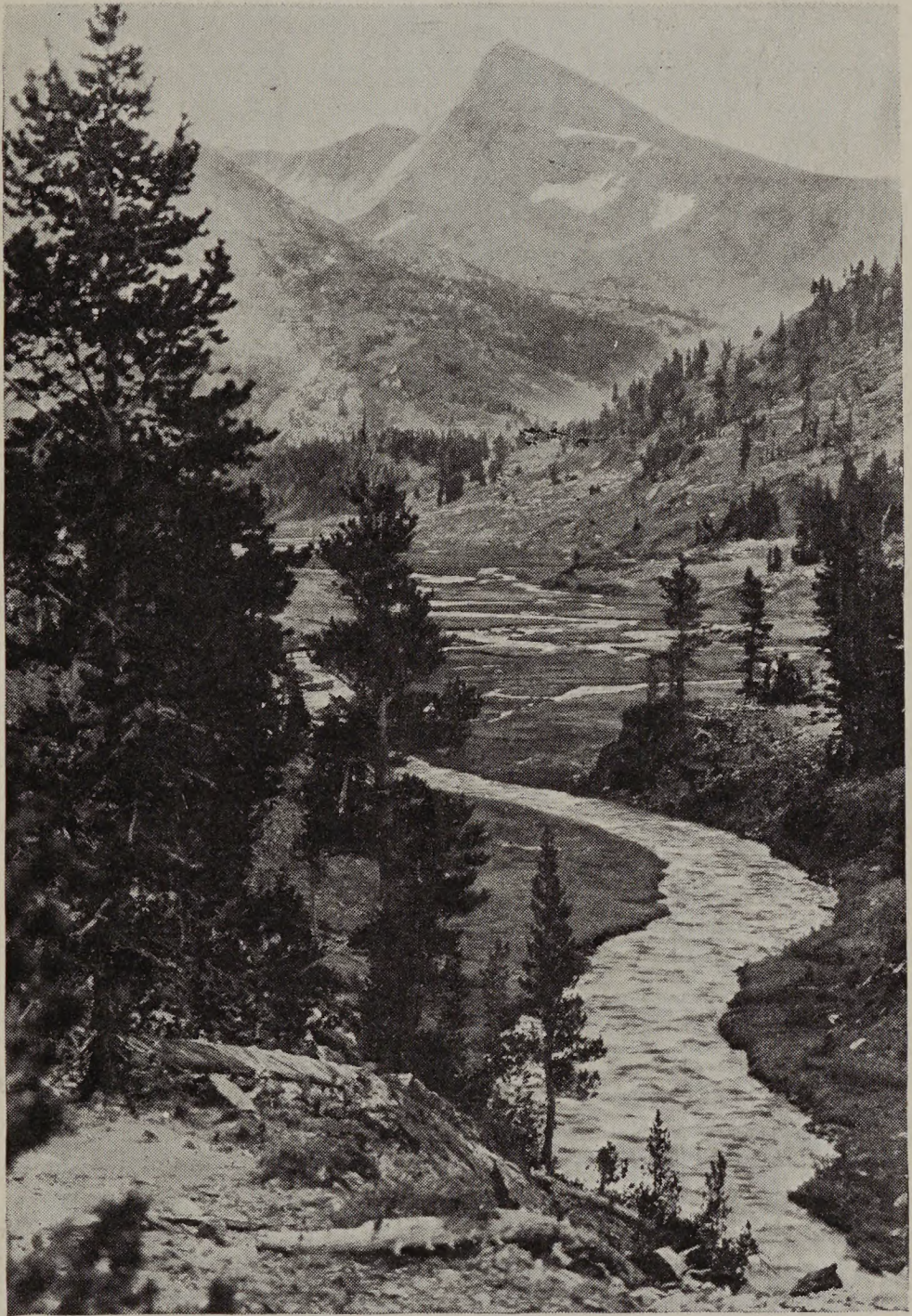




# MONO

## NATIONAL FOREST

CALIFORNIA—NEVADA



Dana Mountain (13,050 feet) and Glacier, Mono National Forest

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



FOREST SERVICE  
CALIFORNIA REGION



# NATIONAL FOREST VISITORS

Free public use of national forests is invited.

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Visitors to the Mono National Forest are required to observe the following rules:

1. A camp-fire permit must be secured before building any fire, including fire in stoves burning wood, kerosene, or gasoline, on national forest land. The nearest forest officer will issue a permit to you without charge.

2. Every camping party in the national forests must be equipped with a shovel and an ax, per vehicle, or pack train. Shovel, with blade at least 8 inches wide, and an overall length of 36 inches; ax, not less than 26 inches long overall, with head weighing 2 pounds or more. Both of these tools to be in serviceable condition. All camping parties will be expected to obtain these tools before entering the national forests.

3. During the fire season smoking is prohibited in the Mono National Forest below the 7,500-foot elevation, except in camps, at places of habitation, and in special posted areas, and smokers must be careful to extinguish their lighted matches, cigars and cigarettes, and pipe heels. Watch for "No Smoking" and "Smoke Here" signs.

4. In periods of high fire hazard, camping and camp or picnic fires may be restricted to posted camp grounds, and part or all of the national forests may be closed to public use and travel. Watch for "Closed Area" signs.

5. Build small fires. Clear an area not less than 10 feet in diameter before starting a fire.

6. Never leave a fire without totally extinguishing it with a plentiful supply of water.

7. Keep your camp clean. Where garbage pits and incinerators are not provided, burn or bury all garbage and refuse.

8. Do not pollute the springs, streams, or lakes by insanitary acts.

9. Observe the State fish and game laws.

YOUR COOPERATION IN THE ENFORCEMENT  
OF THESE REGULATIONS IS REQUESTED



# MONO NATIONAL FOREST

## CALIFORNIA—NEVADA

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The Mono National Forest covers 796,737 acres in Alpine and Mono Counties, California, and 464,542 acres in Douglas, Lyon, and Mineral Counties, Nevada, a total area of 1,261,279 acres of Government land. It is located on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada, between the southern end of Lake Tahoe and the divide between the Owens River and the Mono Lake drainage. To the east of the main forest and distant a few miles lies the Excelsior Mountain division. On the west, the Mono Forest joins the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests and Yosemite National Park, and on the south the Sierra and Inyo National Forests.

Mono derives its name from the Monache Indians, as the Yokuts, their neighbors, called the tribes of this region. The Monaches were closely related to the northern Piutes of Nevada and the Bannocks of Idaho. Two branches of these tribes are now locally recognized—the Piutes of Bridgeport and Mono Lake and the Washoes of Carson Valley and regions farther north.

In the Mono region the Sierra Nevada break abruptly to the plateau country of eastern California and western Nevada. Sheer granite peaks, deep canyons, and numerous lakes formed by glacial action and fed by rushing mountain streams make an unusual ensemble of rugged mountain scenery. Within the forest are the headwaters drainage basins of two branches of the Carson River, the east and west forks of the Walker River, and Leevining and Rush Creeks.

### EARLY EXPLORERS

The region within and adjacent to the Mono National Forest was the scene of many of the earliest expeditions and explorations of the West.

Jedediah Strong Smith, intrepid explorer, is claimed by some historians to have crossed the Sierra Nevada south of Sonora Peak near Emigrant Pass in May, 1827, the first white man to do so. Smith had previously led a party from Utah by way of the Mojave Desert into southern California, and from there had traveled northward into the San Joaquin Valley. Being anxious to return to Salt Lake City, he essayed to cross the Sierra with his entire party but encountered such heavy snow that the trip was abandoned. Smith then left the party and with only two companions made a second and successful attempt.



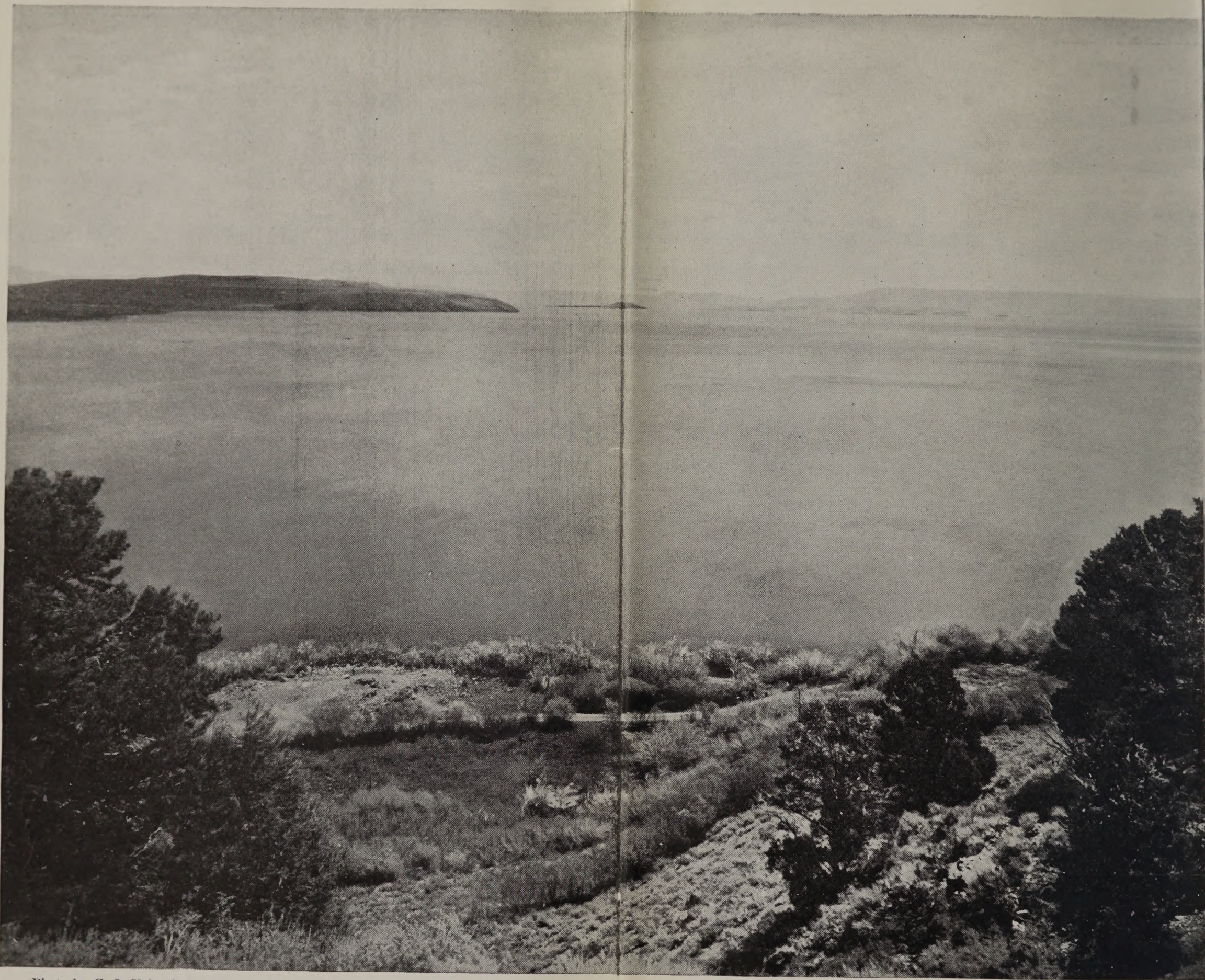


Photo by C. O. Valentine

**Mono Lake—the “Dead Sea of America.”** This lake, lying at an elevation of 6,431 feet, is 14 miles long by 10 miles wide and has no perceptible outlet. A species of brine shrimp is the only permanent animal life existing in these waters



In 1833, a party under Capt. Joseph R. Walker, after whom Walker River was named, made the first westerly crossing of the Sierra. The definite point of crossing has not as yet been determined, although it seems positive that the party followed a branch of either the Carson or the Walker River.

During the winter of 1843-44, Gen. John C. Fremont with his famous guide, Kit Carson, enduring numerous hardships, passed through most of this country. Fremont finally crossed the Sierra at a point now known as Carson Pass, on the Carson Pass Highway. Many of his camping places have been identified and appropriately marked.

The explorations of the Mono Forest region up to 1840 were mainly in the interest of fur-trade extension. Then came the period of gold excitement. Among the first prospectors was Leroy Vining, who located in 1853 in what is now known as Leevining Canyon.



F-249406

Leevining Canyon and Tioga Pass Road, Mono National Forest

## NATURAL FEATURES

Hot springs, both in their natural state and improved for bathing, are common at intervals along an earthquake fault line paralleling the lower slopes of the eastern Sierra Nevada.

Numerous extinct craters are found in the Mono Basin, and are of exceptional interest to the geologist.

Mount Lyell (13,090 feet), the highest mountain in the Mono Forest, Mount Dana (13,050 feet), Mount Conness (12,565 feet), and the Sawtooth Ridge, contain the remnants of glaciers, with much evidence of recent glacial action in the form of polished cliffs and moraines. Nearly all of the hundreds of small lakes found in the Mono Forest are the result of glacial action. Reversed Creek was so named because its original course was blocked by a moraine. Near June Lake, close to the highway, one sees the "perched boulder," a massive balanced granite rock of 350 tons, left by glacial action.

Mono Lake, called the "Dead Sea of America," lies at an elevation of 6,431 feet, in a basin into which the Tioga Road leads from the west. The lake is 14 miles long, 10 miles



wide, and 152 feet deep and has no perceptible outlet. Its waters are an unusual compound, with many chemical substances in solution, and are said to have certain curative properties.

A species of brine shrimp, found in great abundance and eaten by gulls and various other aquatic birds, is the only permanent animal life existing in Mono Lake. Paoha Island, from an Indian name meaning "Spirit of the Mists," is in the center of the lake and has an area of 1,400 acres.

To the south of Mono Lake and adjacent to the national forest is a range of volcanic cones, the Mono Craters, noted for their height and the symmetry of their curving slopes of gray lapilli. This range is about 10 miles long, with great cones rising 3,000 feet above the lake. The craters are composed mostly of acidic lava occurring in compact obsidian or volcanic glass and in part by pumice so light that it floats in water. They have been extinct a long time as measured in years, but as their last eruption took place after the glaciers had retreated up the canyons of the Sierra, to the geologist their formation was an event of yesterday.



F-210856

The Ebbetts Pass Road in the Mono National Forest

## ACCESSIBILITY

The Mono National Forest is made generally accessible by six main highways and several secondary automobile roads. El Camino Sierra—the Sierra State Highway—from Mojave and southern California points to Reno, Nev., parallels the main Sierra range and crosses part of the forest from north to south.

The forest is traversed from east to west by the following trans-Sierra highways.

The Tioga Road through Yosemite National Park crosses the summit at Tioga Pass (elevation 9,941 feet) and joins the Sierra Highway near the confluence of Leevining Creek and Mono Lake.

The Sonora-Mono State Highway passes through the Stanislaus National Forest over Sonora Pass (elevation 9,624 feet) and joins the Sierra Highway at Bridgeport.



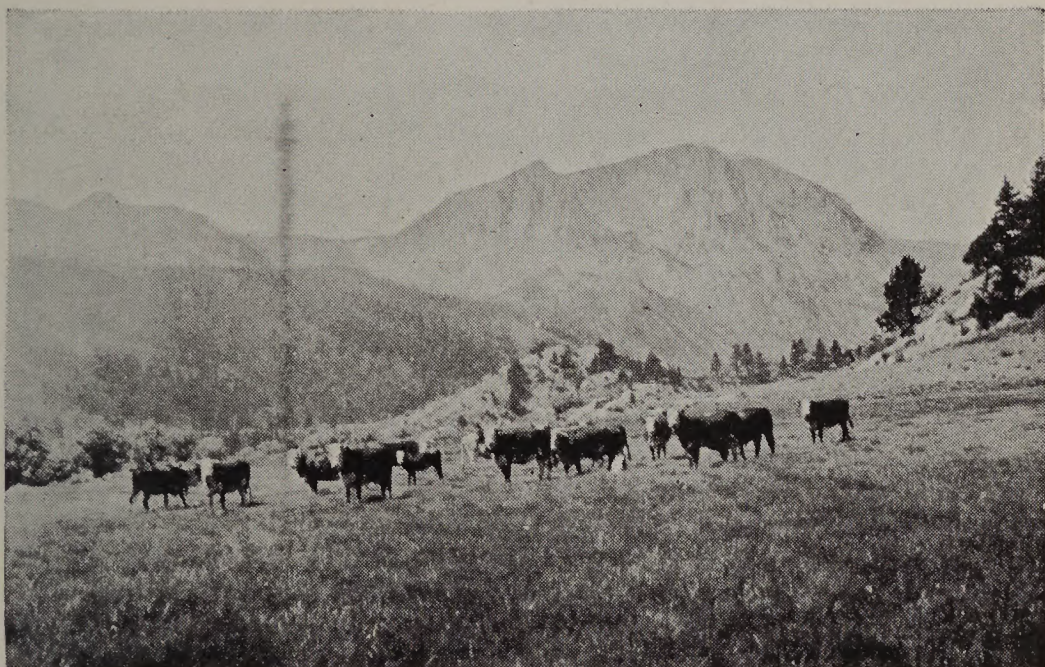
North of the Sonora-Mono Highway is the Ebbetts Pass Highway through the Stanislaus National Forest. This highway crosses the summit at Ebbetts Pass (elevation 8,800 feet), and turning north goes by way of Markleeville and joins the Sierra Highway at Gardnerville.

Across the Eldorado National Forest is the Carson Pass Highway, which crosses the summit into the Mono Forest at Carson Pass (elevation 8,600 feet) and joins a branch of the Lincoln Highway from Meyers to Woodfords and Minden, near Willow Creek in Hope Valley.

The Lincoln Highway from Placerville to Carson City connects near Edgewood, Nev., with a highway running via Kingsbury Grade to Minden and Gardnerville on the east and Woodfords on the south.

These highways form the main automobile routes between southern California, the Yosemite Valley, Lake Tahoe, and Reno, Nev.

The Mono National Forest is also accessible from the north by the Virginia-Truckee Railroad from Reno via Carson City to Minden, from which point automobile stages connect, in the summer, with Lake Tahoe, Mono Lake, and Bishop in the Owens Valley.



F-178971

Forage is one of the most important resources of the Mono Forest, and grazing permits are issued annually for 4,350 head of cattle and horses.

## RESOURCES

### Timber

On the Mono National Forest there is an estimated stand of one billion board feet of saw timber, composed largely of Jeffrey pine, and over one billion cords of fuel wood. There is as yet no demand by lumbermen for large quantities of timber from the Mono, and the forest cover is at present most valuable for watershed protection.

### Forage

Forage is the most important resource of the Mono Forest in present use. There is a wide variety of stock range—the grass lands along the streams at lower elevations, the browse ranges in the timbered country, and the high moun-



tain meadows. Grazing permits are issued annually by the Forest Service for 4,350 cattle and horses and 74,500 sheep. Allotments are made only to qualified stock owners. The number of stock grazed by each permittee is limited to the carrying capacity of individual ranges, and the stock is so distributed as to utilize fully all the forage without overgrazing or injury to the producing capacity of the range.



F-220453

Seventy-four thousand five hundred sheep graze annually in the high mountain meadows of the Mono National Forest

## Water

Two hydroelectric power projects are located on Government land in the Mono Forest. Two more are outside the forest boundary but are dependent on the watersheds within the forest for their source of water supply. Power generated at the hydroelectric plants in Leevining Canyon and at Silver Lake is carried to southern California over one of the longest high-voltage transmission lines in the world.



Photo by Frasher's

**Walker River.** Water for irrigation and power is another important resource of the Mono Forest



Two irrigation projects, with reservoirs on the Walker River drainage, have a combined storage capacity of 90,000 acre-feet, while the upper Carson River storage has a capacity of 15,000 acre-feet. The Newlands Project at Fallon, Nev., draws heavily on the Carson River for its supply of irrigation water.

It is estimated that at present 200,000 acres of land depend for irrigation water on the watershed protected by the Mono National Forest, with prospects of larger development as the agricultural lands in the great valleys to the east of the forest are brought under irrigation.



Photo by Frasher's

**Mono Craters, one of the interesting geologic formations of the Mono National Forest region**

## RECREATION

The Mono National Forest, with its lofty peaks and glaciers, deep canyons, icy streams, and crystal lakes, has a wide diversity of scenery and offers opportunity for many kinds of outdoor activity. Carson and Walker Rivers and Leevining and Rush Creeks are outstanding attractions for the camper and fisherman. There are scores of lofty peaks for the mountain climber to scale, and the region around Mono Lake and the Mono Craters is most interesting from a geological standpoint.

## PRIMITIVE AND RECREATION AREAS

To insure the preservation, in their wilderness state, of typical mountain and forest areas in California and Nevada noted for their scenic and recreational values, the Forest Service has set apart tracts of national forest land as primitive areas for the use and enjoyment of all the people. No recreational structures or roads will be allowed in these areas.

No other region in the Mono Forest, and few in California or Nevada, offers finer opportunities for outdoor life and enjoyment than the primitive areas in the Mono Forest. The Hoover Primitive Area embraces 20,540 acres entirely



within the Mono Forest, and the Dana-Minarets Primitive Area of 82,181 acres is partly in the Mono and partly in the adjoining Sierra National Forest. These primitive areas in the Mono Forest include a large part of the east slope of the rugged High Sierra, from Inland Pass on the south to Matterhorn Peak on the north, together with many prominent mountains, lakes, and streams.

The Reversed Creek Recreation Area, covering 12,000 acres, joins the eastern boundary of the Dana-Minarets Primitive Area, and includes the region surrounding June, Silver, and Gem Lakes, and portions of Rush and Reversed Creeks, noted as fine fishing waters. This recreation area differs from adjoining primitive areas in that all forms of recreational development, such as roads, summer homes, resorts, and like uses are permitted within the area.

A road up Rush Creek to its confluence with Reversed Creek makes a portion of the Reversed Creek Recreation Area accessible by automobile, but the High Sierra country within the nearby primitive areas can only be reached on foot or horseback.



Photo by Frasher's

**Lower Hoover Lake in the Hoover Primitive Area, Mono National Forest**

## CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

In the Sierra Nevada, up to 7,000 feet elevation, the country is usually open to travel by May 1, but the higher passes, because of the heavy snowfall, are often closed until June 15 or later, except where a roadway is cleared through the snowdrifts. The days are warm and delightful and the nights always cool and invigorating, with frost above 9,000 feet. Thunder showers are of frequent occurrence in the mountains during the summer months. Heavy winter storms preclude camping out after October.

The most favorable months for outing trips in the Mono Forest are the latter part of June, July, and August, and the first half of September.



FOREST CAMPS (Drainage in which located, camp name, and Ranger District)	Elevation	Average Opening and Closing Date		Distance from (Miles)					Leading Features *			
		Opening Date	Closing Date	Store	Tele- phone	Post office	Saddle stock	Boats	Lake shore	Stream	Fishing	Sheltered location
CARSON RIVER BASIN (1)— Kit Carson----- Crystal Springs----- Camp Wells-----	7, 000	June 1-----	Sept. 30-----	1	5					X	X	X
	6, 000	May 1-----	Sept. 30-----	1	1						X	X
	6, 000	May 1-----	Sept. 30-----	5	5	5				X	X	X
WEST WALKER RIVER (2)— Chris Flat----- Sonora Bridge----- Leavitt Meadows-----	6, 500	May 1-----	Oct. 15-----	1	1	11	7			X	X	X
	6, 700	May 1-----	Oct. 15-----	20	4	20	6			X	X	
	7, 100	June 1-----	Sept. 30-----	26	5	24	1			X	X	X
EAST WALKER RIVER (2)— Piute Hill (2 camps)----- Robinson Creek----- Lower Twin Lakes----- Green Creek----- Trumbul Lake-----	6, 600	May 1-----	Oct. 15-----	4	4	4	6			X	X	X
	7, 000	May 1-----	Oct. 15-----	1	1	15	1			X	X	X
	7, 000	May 1-----	Oct. 15-----	1	1	16	5	X	X		X	X
	8, 000	June 1-----	Sept. 30-----	1	15	15				X	X	X
	9, 700	June 1-----	Sept. 30-----	1	8	20	1	X	X		X	X
LEEVINING CANYON (3)— Saddlebag Lake----- Ellery Lake----- Tioga Road----- Leevining-----	10, 100	July 1-----	Sept. 1-----	5				X	X		X	
	9, 600	June 20-----	Sept. 15-----	2	8	8			X		X	X
	7, 300	May 15-----	Sept. 30-----	3	3	3				X	X	X
	7, 200	May 15-----	Sept. 30-----	2	2	2				X	X	X
RUSH-REVERSED CREEK (3)— Rush Creek----- Silver Lake----- Gull Lake-----	7, 000	May 1-----	Sept. 30-----	1	1	1	1			X	X	X
	7, 200	May 1-----	Sept. 30-----	1	1	1	1	X	X		X	X
	7, 600	May 1-----	Sept. 30-----	1	1	1	1	X	X		X	X

NOTE.—Further information relative to these camps may be secured from: (1) District Ranger, Markleeville, Calif.; (2) District Ranger, Bridgeport Ranger Station, Bridgeport, Calif.; (3) District Ranger, Leevining Ranger Station, Leevining, Calif., or Forest Supervisor, Minden, Nev.  
\* x Denotes features listed are present at camp.



## FOREST CAMPS

The great increase in the use of the Mono National Forest as a vacation ground has made it necessary for the Forest Service to provide recreational improvements for the accommodation of visitors and to safeguard the lakes, streams, and springs against insanitary conditions as well as to protect the forest from fire. Various sites have been selected in the best camping places within the forest. Here camping facilities have been built and are maintained without charge for the enjoyment of the traveler.

These camp grounds are sufficiently commodious to take care of all visitors to this national forest, and the Forest Service requests that no camp be established outside the limit of these designated areas. The chart on page 11 lists the forest camps, which are also shown on the map.



F-220452

Ellery Lake Forest Camp near the summit of the Tioga Pass Road

### Summer-home Sites

In certain situations where free forest camps are not required and the sites are attractive to those who desire to return to the same place year after year for a vacation, the Forest Service has surveyed and subdivided various tracts into lots which are rented for summer homes.

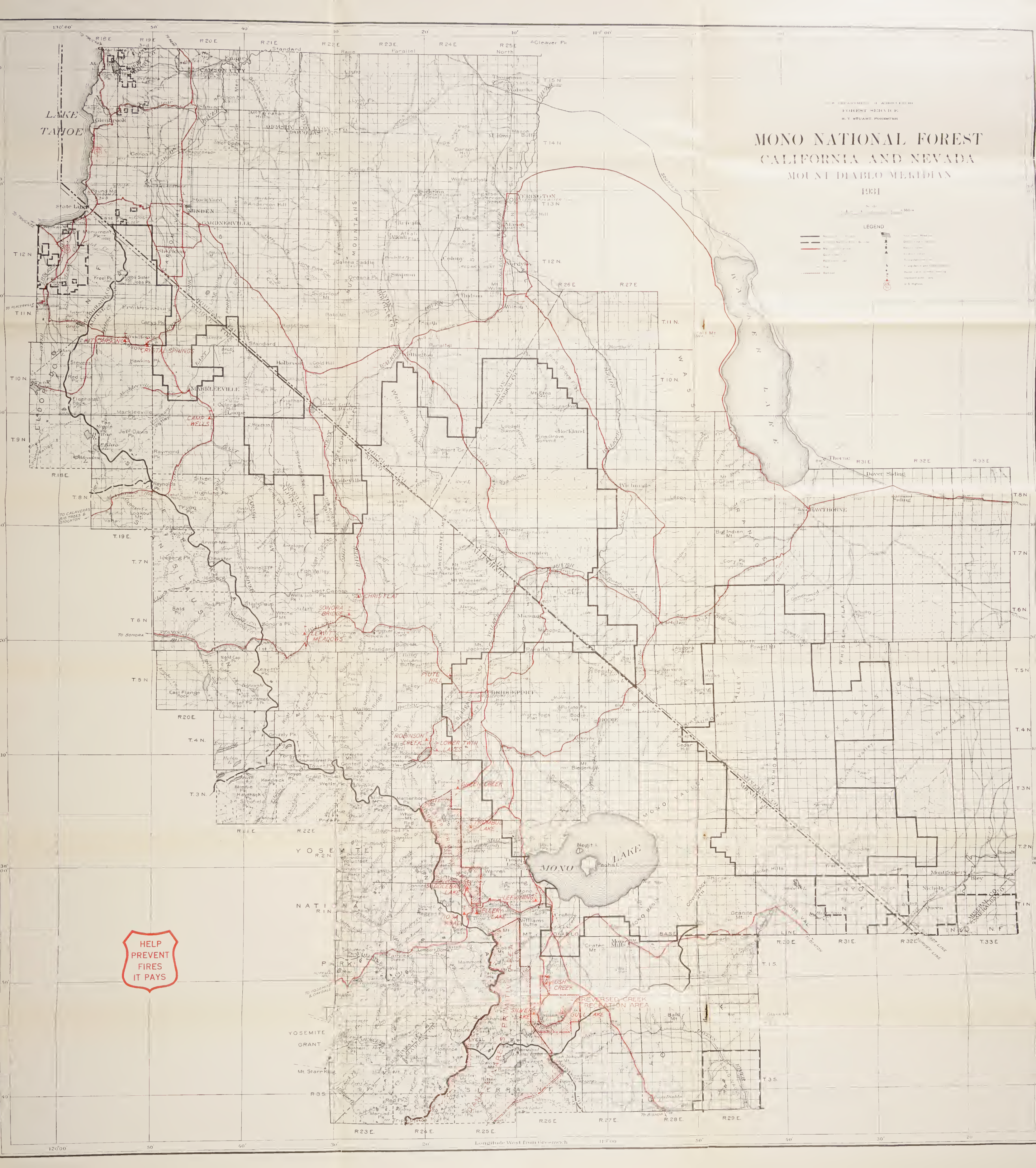
The annual rental for these lots is \$15 to \$25 each, and permittees must comply with certain building and sanitary requirements. Land for various other forms of public use, such as resorts, stores, and gas stations, may also be leased from the Forest Service.

The most desirable summer-home tracts on the Mono Forest are located as follows:

1. Along Reversed Creek road at Silver, June, and Gull Lakes and intervening points.
2. Near the upper stretches of Virginia and Green Creeks, accessible from El Camino Sierra by lateral roads.
3. Along the shores of Twin Lakes, reached by a road from Bridgeport.
4. Along Woodfords Canyon below Hope Valley.

Further information on summer-home sites and land for special use may be obtained from the Forest Supervisor at Minden, Nev., or from any district ranger.





MONO NATIONAL FOREST  
CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA  
MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN

1931

LEGEND

—	Section Line	—	Trail
—	Range Line	—	Water
—	County Line	—	Swamp
—	State Line	—	Marsh
—	Indian Reservation	—	Grassland
—	Indian Agency	—	Timber
—	Indian Village	—	Forest
—	Indian Burial Ground	—	Mountain
—	Indian Cemetery	—	Valley
—	Indian School	—	Plateau
—	Indian Church	—	Basin
—	Indian Mission	—	Desert
—	Indian Trading Post	—	Sierra
—	Indian Blacksmith	—	Range
—	Indian Blacksmith Shop	—	Range
—	Indian Blacksmith Shop	—	Range

HELP  
PREVENT  
FIRES  
IT PAYS





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**Gull Lake, in the Reversed Creek Recreation Area, designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for the use and enjoyment of the public, Mono National Forest**



## FISH AND GAME

Once upon a time, geologically during the Quarternary Period, a large lake, Lahontan, covered much of the north-western quarter of Nevada. This lake, fed by Sierra streams, was larger than Lake Erie and 800 feet deep. In receding from its former level Lahontan was broken up into a number of smaller lakes with brackish waters, which naturally influenced the distribution of fish they contained. Thus we now have species of trout indigenous only to certain waters, and others that are found generally in the region.

The Tahoe trout (*Salmo henshawii*), also called the Henshaw, black spotted, and cutthroat, is the most prominent and widely distributed species, being found in Lake Tahoe, Pyramid and Walker Lakes, and the Truckee, Carson, and Walker Rivers. Tahoe trout weighing 27 pounds have been taken from Pyramid Lake, and 15-pound fish have been taken from the Walker River.



Photo by Frasher's

**Eastern brook trout from Gem Lake, Mono National Forest**

The Mono Basin is not geographically a part of the Lahontan Lake system. Its waters, and those of Mill, Leevining, and Rush Creeks, were originally without fish. During the placer operations of 1867, Virginia Creek, a tributary of the Walker River, was diverted into Mill Creek in the Mono Basin. The latter stream thus became stocked, and the fish later spread to Leevining and Rush Creeks. Since that time, these and various other streams in the Mono Forest have been artificially stocked with other species, mainly eastern brook, rainbow, Dolly Varden, Lock Leven, and golden trout.

The most noted fishing waters on the Mono Forest are June, Gull, Gem, Silver, and Grant Lakes, from which trout weighing 15 pounds have been taken.



The State Fish and Game Commission maintains a trout hatchery on Reversed Creek with a capacity of 40 troughs, which keeps the streams and lakes of Mono County replenished. A similar hatchery, recently installed near Markleeville, will keep the waters of Alpine County stocked for the angler.

The Mono region is not remarkable for an abundance of game, although a fair number of deer and game birds are found in season.

## FIRE PREVENTION

Because of its sparse cover of brush and timber, the Mono National Forest is not, generally speaking, subject to extreme fire hazard. There are, however, certain sections, such as the windfall area in the Crater Mountain-Deadman Pass region and also portions of Alpine County, which are very dangerous. High winds, too, often spring up without warning, and cause fires to spread with rapidity even in the sparsest sagebrush stands. A word of caution is therefore issued to all visitors against being careless with fire even where the danger may seem to be negligible.

A camp-fire permit is required on the Mono National Forest before any outdoor fires, including fires in stoves burning gasoline, kerosene, or wood, may be started on Government land. Free camp-fire permits may be obtained from Forest Service officers and other authorized agents.

Each automobile and pack-train party camping in the Mono Forest must carry a shovel and ax suitable for fire-fighting purposes.

During the dangerous fire season smoking is prohibited in certain regions within the Mono National Forest below the elevation of 7,500 feet, except in camp, at places of habitation, and in special posted areas. The closed areas are as follows:

1. Woodfords Canyon, between Woodfords and Hope Valley.
  2. West Walker River Canyon, between the national forest boundary and the main river bridge, embracing the western slope of the canyon to the highway.
  3. Mono Mills region, including the area within Township 1 South, Range 27 East, lying east of the State Highway.
- Watch for "No Smoking" and "Smoke Here" signs.

## ADMINISTRATION

The Mono National Forest is in charge of a forest supervisor, with headquarters at Minden, Nev.

The forest is divided into four districts, each in charge of a district ranger. The headquarters of these districts are: Markleeville, Bridgeport, and Leevining, Calif.; and Sweetwater, Nev.

Forest officers are glad to give the public information concerning the resources of the forest and to render such assistance as their regular duties will permit.



PUBLIC SERVICE CHART

	SERVICE OBTAINABLE AS CHECKED X												
	Baths, hot mineral	Lodging	Boats	Camp-fire permits	Fishing licenses	Gasoline and oil	Garage service	Guides	Meals	Meat	Milk	Pack and saddle stock	Post office
Bridgeport.....		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Chris Flat.....				X	X	X							X
Coleville.....		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Farringtons.....				X		X							X
Fales.....	X	X		X		X			X				
Green Creek.....			X	X				X	X			X	X
June Lake.....		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Markleeville.....	X	X		X	X	X			X		X		X
Mono Lk. (Tioga Lodge).....		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Silver Lake.....		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Tioga.....			X	X	X	X			X				X
Twin Lakes.....		X	X	X		X			X			X	X
Virginia Lakes.....		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	
Woodfords.....				X	X	X							X



A summer home in the Mono National Forest

F-229865



## WHAT TO DO WHEN LOST

A clear head will find itself. If every one remembered this there would be fewer reports of persons lost in the mountains and forests. Loss of mental control is more serious than lack of food, water, or clothing. The man who keeps his head has the best chance to come through in safety.

The following helpful rules are worth remembering:

1. Stop, sit down, and try to figure out where you are. Use your head, not your legs.

2. If caught by night, fog, or a storm, stop at once and make camp in a sheltered spot. Build a fire in a safe place. Gather plenty of dry fuel.

3. Don't wander about. Travel only downhill. Follow water courses or ridges.

4. If injured, choose a cleared spot on a promontory and make a signal smoke. The Forest Service fire lookouts or the observers in airplanes may see your smoke.

5. Don't yell, don't run, don't worry, and **DON'T QUIT.**



A word from the forest ranger to the new camper, hiker, or vacationist:

It is better to carry a clear head on your shoulders than a big pack on your back. Yet in going alone into the mountains it is well to go prepared for any emergency. A fish line and a few hooks, matches in a waterproof box, a compass, a little concentrated food, and a strong knife should always be carried. A gun may help as a signal, seldom for obtaining food. Above all, keep cool, and the chances are you will come out of the woods on your own feet.





## GOOD MANNERS IN THE FOREST

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A good sportsman, camper, or tourist, when he goes into the national forests—

FIRST obtains a camp-fire permit.

CARRIES a shovel and ax.

SMOKES only in camp.

PUTS his fire dead out with water.

LEAVES a clean and sanitary camp.

OBSERVES the State fish and game laws.

COOPERATES with forest rangers in reporting and suppressing fires.

PREACHES what he practices.

**DO YOU?**

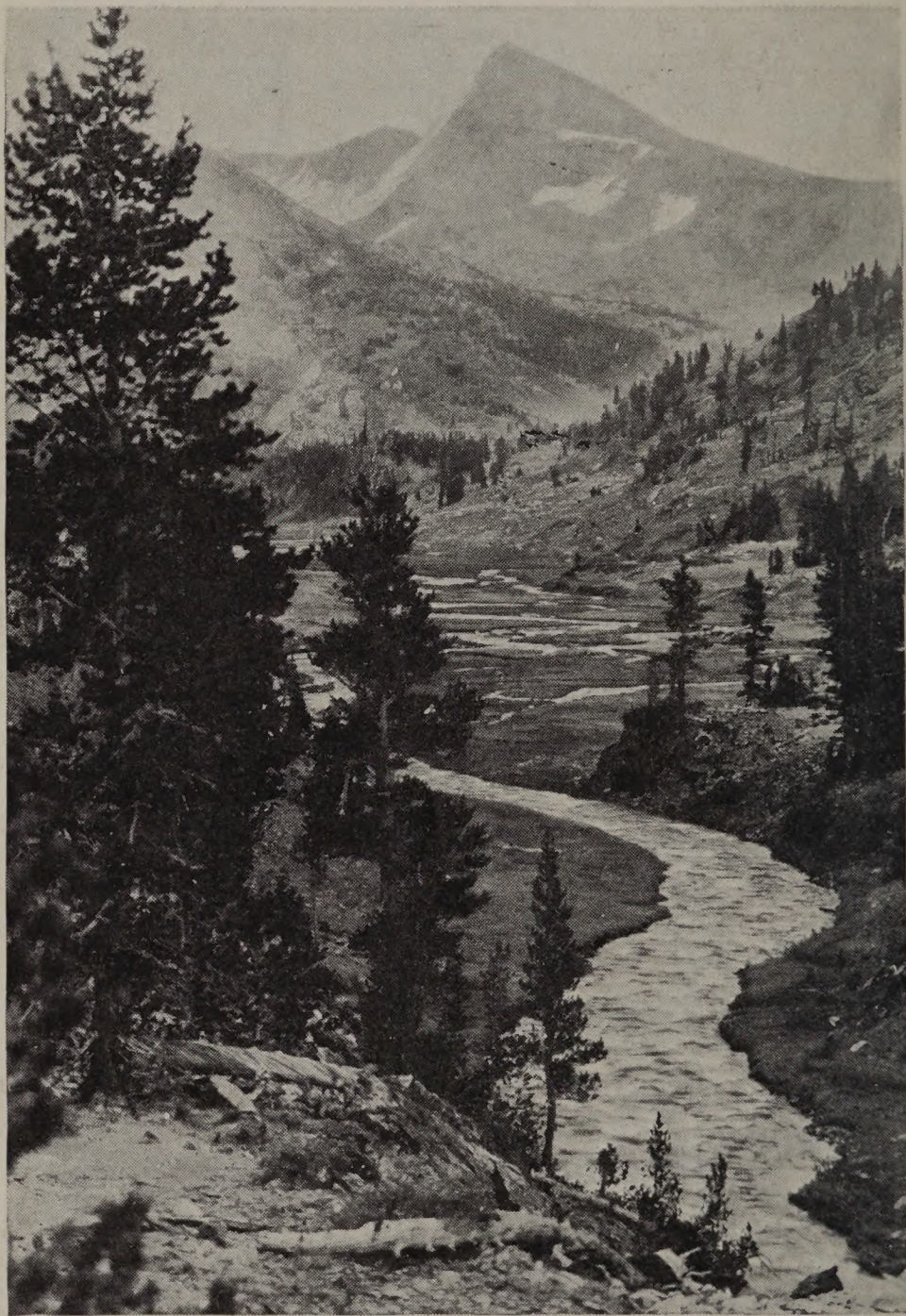




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